

We claim:

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1. A dressing for absorbing biological fluids, comprising:  
a superabsorbent polymer matrix having an enhanced surface area; and  
a plurality of antimicrobial compounds coupled by non-siloxane bonds to said polymer matrix.
2. A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of antimicrobial compounds comprise quaternary ammonium compounds.
3. A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial compounds comprise chain-like structures tethered at one end to said polymer matrix.
4. A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of antimicrobial compounds are non-ionic compounds.
5. A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said dressing comprises a sanitary pad.
6. A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said dressing comprises a tampon.
7. A dressing as recited in claim 1, wherein said dressing comprises a bandage.
8. A method for fabricating an intrinsically antimicrobial absorbent dressing, comprising the steps of:  
forming a superabsorbent synthetic polymer matrix having an enhanced surface area;  
and  
attaching a plurality of antimicrobial compounds to the enhanced surface area of said polymer matrix.